

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01196 061557Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CPR-01

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /053 W

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R 052020Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6940

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 1196

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CO

SUBJECT: REPORT OF APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL DESIGNADO TURBAY
AS COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S.

1. LIBERAL SENATOR GUSTAVO BALCAZAR MONZON TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER ON
FEB 4 THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ HAD INFORMED HIM RECENTLY THAT TURBAY
WOULD BE APPOINTED COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. BALCAZAR
SAID LOPEZ TIME FRAME FOR TURBAY, WHO IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO COLOMB
IA
ON FEB 12 FROM A TRIP THROUGH EUROPE, INCLUDED HAVING TURBAY IN
COLOMBIA THROUGH MARCH, TO MANAGE THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF CONGRE
SS
PLANNED FOR THAT MONTH (TURBAY IS PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS). TURBAY
WOULD THEN ARRIVE IN WASHDC AT THE BEGINNING OF APRIL TO ASSUME
HIS POST.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO HIS CONVERSATION WITH LOPEZ, BALCAZAR SAID HE PHONED
TURBAY, WHO WAS IN PRAGUE AT THE TIME. BALCZAAR SAID TURBAY WAS AT
FIRST GUARDED ON THE SUBJECT OF HIS APPOINTMENT TO WASHINGTON BUT
WHEN HE HEARD THAT LOPEZ HAD DISCUSSED IT WITH BALCZAR, INDICATED
HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE APPOINTMENT AND THE TIMING.

3. COMMENT: THE APPOINTMENT OF TURBAY AS COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR
TO WASHINGTON HAS BEEN MUCH RUMORED IN PAST MONTHS. LOPEZ
CONVERSATION AS REPORTED BY BALCAZAR IS THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE
CONFIRMATION THE EMBASSY HAS HEARD TO DATE.

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 01196 061557Z

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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